

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

AGENCY HIGHLIGHT: TWIN CEDARS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

The mission of the Twin Cedars Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is to facilitate and achieve healing and justice for abused and neglected children by providing core services of forensic interviewing, family advocacy, trauma-focused therapy, and forensic medical exams in Lee County using our trauma-informed multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach. At the CAC, our family advocates work diligently to ensure that our clients basic needs are met and continue to help them grow beyond basic necessity.



Children and families are referred to the CAC by law enforcement or child protective services following allegations of child abuse or neglect. The CAC traditionally provides services to children birth through 18 years old; however, the CAC provides accommodations for all victims who may benefit from a child-friendly environment regardless of age. We hope that through education, we can reduce the instances of child abuse and increase the likelihood of reporting when abuse does occur.

HOW YOU'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

An adolescent female, age 14, came to our agency for a forensic interview in September 2022. The client indicated her interview was due to the sexual advances made by her former stepfather. After conclusion of the interview, we provided family advocacy and a needs assessment to the non-offending caregiver, her mother. Immediately, we were able to provide the family with on-site infant clothing from our "Clothing Closet" for the newborn baby in their home, as well as baby wipes and shoes. After the needs assessment was completed, our family advocate conducted follow-ups for a minimum of 6 months, as is the standard for all our clients. During these follow-ups, the family advocate checked in to see if there were any other resources needed for the family. It was determined our client needed more support for the children in her care. One of the more immediate needs was a bed for the 14-year-old female. Our family advocate was able to apply to the Ashley Furniture Home Store: Hope to Dream Program; a program that selects individuals to receive a bed frame, mattress, bedding, and pillows at no cost to the recipient; on behalf of our client. To date, this client has received over 35 community resources in the course of 4 months from our agency.

**CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
APRIL EVENTS**

*EVENT DETAILS WILL BE SENT OUT AT A LATER TIME. INFORMATION ABOUT NEW EVENTS WILL BE SENT AT A LATER TIME.

- 5TH** LUNCH AND LEARN: SECONDARY TRAUMA AND SELF CARE
- 12TH** LUNCH AND LEARN: RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE
- 14TH** BURN NUTRITION BENEFIT DAY
- 15TH** CRUNCH FITNESS DANCE & SCULPT
- 19TH** LUNCH AND LEARN: THE EFFECTS OF TRAUMA ON BEHAVIOR
- 22TH** LEE COUNTY DA: FAMILY FUN DAY
- 22-28TH** ROCK 'N ROLL PINBALL BENEFIT WEEK GEAR GAMING OF OPELIKA BENEFIT
- 26TH** LEE COUNTY PROCLAMATION

United Way Twin Cedars